

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 365
By Womack

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Gary Rankin and the 1995 Riverdale High School football team on being Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class 5-A state runner-up.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has a long history of excellent high school athletic teams, and it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize and honor those exceptional teams who have added to our glorious sports tradition, in this our bicentennial year; and

WHEREAS, the great 1995 Riverdale High School football team, despite having only two returning starters, a sophomore quarterback and a very young team, played like veterans and finished as Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class 5-A state runner-up; and

WHEREAS, during the memorable regular season, Riverdale beat Smyrna 22-6, Hendersonville 35-20, Jefferson County 20-7, arch rival Oakland 43-7, Lebanon 21-0, Gallatin 27-14, Coffee County 19-0 and Warren County 30-0; and

WHEREAS, in the state playoffs, the Warriors defeated the McMinn Cherokees in a hard-fought battle 39-21, tamed the Oak Ridge Wildcats 10-7, leashed the Knoxville Bearden Bulldogs 17-6 and sunk the Knoxville Farragut Admirals 35-6 to reach the Clinic Bowl; and

WHEREAS, this was their third straight appearance in the prestigious Clinic Bowl; and

WHEREAS, they finished with an enviable 12-3 record, a winning percentage of .800;
and

WHEREAS, their powerful offense scored 348 points, an average of 23 points per game, while their stingy defense gave up only 115 points, an average of just 8 per game; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded **Head Coach Gary Rankin**, who in six seasons at the helm of the Warriors has won one state championship and finished as state runner-up twice, was appropriately honored as State Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, he was aided in his efforts by a very capable staff including **Assistant Coach Greg Wyant, Assistant Coach Steve Britton, Assistant Coach Rickey Field, Assistant Coach Brad Cowan, Assistant Coach Ron Crawford and Assistant Coach David Watson**; and

WHEREAS, senior wide receiver-defensive back **Gerald Griffin** was chosen All-American, All-State, was the Lawrenceburg Quarterback Club Mid-State nominee for the Charles Greenhill Award and was a nominee for the Gill Gideon Class 5-A "Mr. Football" Back of the Year; sophomore quarterback **Eric Locke**, who rushed and passed for more than 2,200 yards, was chosen Clinic Bowl Most Valuable Player and All-State and senior kicker-punter **Ryan Miller** was named All-Mid-State; and

WHEREAS, each of the other players -- seniors **Craig Hill, Ryan Maloney, Jeremy Maurer, Andy Risner, Billy McKinley, Brett Martin, Brian Barnett, Travis Brown, Davis Hennessee, Brian Austin, Kevin Litchford, Matt Austin and Kevin Davis**; juniors **Emil Mitchell, Todd Harris, Michael Nobles, Carlos Tigg, Johnta Martin, Michael Knox, Delaney Soloman, Ron Smith, Julian Johnson, Matt Willard, Reggie Smith, William Henry, Billy Bohannon, Brian Davis, Shawn Bowers, Justin Tate, Jerod Wade, J. R. Crockett, Shavis Randall, Jason Staples, John Simpkins and Phillip Sisombath** and sophomores **Cory Robinson, Marcus Tigg, Jason Hill, Drew Cox, Jeremy Davis, Vincent Watkins, Carmoski Mitchell, Craig Garrison, Chad Mackens, Quincy DeSoto, Jason Cline, Terrance Miller, Jeremy Davis, Eric Hennessee, Jerome Martin, Scott Lowman, Harrison Mullins, Jared**

Frost, Eric Greer, Kolas Hughes, Josh Miller, Nick Patterson, Brian Crockett and Justin Staples -- made significant contributions to the success of the team; and

WHEREAS, **Principal Hulan Watson** has been very supportive of the team; and

WHEREAS, the enthusiastic cheerleaders, under the able guidance of **sponsor Geannel Dotson**, were: **Shannon Brookshire, Jaime McCollough, Celby Swanson, Kristy Fisher, Helen Bailey, Nicole Embree, Meredith Tucker, Jennifer Parrott, Angie Candler, Holly Diana, Krista Hargett and Amy Sawyer**; and

, WHEREAS, the hard-working staff included **managers Ashley Taylor, Caren Hughes, Rachael James and Meredith Wright; trainer Carl Young and student trainers Nathan Bracy, Jeremy Tackett and Lauren Adkins**; and

WHEREAS it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize the numerous accomplishments of this team, a team who has been a tremendous credit to their school, their community and their state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Gary Rankin and the 1995 Riverdale High School football team on finishing as the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class 5-A state runner-up, commend their numerous accomplishments and wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copy.